

Introductions

- Wilfred J. Nabahe – Tribal Relations Program Manager, Inyo National Forest
- Sarah Winters – Director of Marketing, Mammoth Lakes Torusim
- Ann Logan – Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District

Regional News

- Congressman Kevin Kiley attended the Tri County Fair and toured the Donut project.
- Bethanie DeRose from JLL visited the region as part of the Visit California Regional Tourism Strategic Plan effort.
- MLTPA and the Whitebark Institute are partnering on implementation of the Visitor Connection Package.
- The summer had record-breaking heat. Heat is affecting basic water infrastructure.
- Inyo County, Caltrans, and Death Valley NP worked together to recover from Hurricane Hilary. Death Valley NP remains closed for infrastructure repairs.
- National Public Lands Day is September 23. There will be a clean up event in the Mammoth Lakes Basin.
- The Inyo National Forest published their proposed action for the Over Snow Vehicle Use Designation. There will be public meetings for feedback.
- There is litigation in the U.S. Court of Appeals around the Inyo National Forest's Hot Creek Mine approval.
- MLTPA has been working with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Quantified Ventures, and the Inyo National Forest to redesign campgrounds in Lee Vining, Shady Rest, and Independence. We're engaging with John Northmore Roberts, a landscape architecture firm doing the campground design in Red's Meadow.
- Construction on the road to Red's Meadow has begun.
- Caltrans has significant grants to do the environmental review for the wildlife crossing.
- Mammoth Lakes Tourism helped bring divers to the Lakes Basin to remove trash from the lakes. JT Chevallier is engaged with a similar group working in Alpine County and Lake Tahoe.
- The Eastern Sierra Regional Airport is looking at Telluride/Montrose as a model for regional air service.

ESCOG News, Elaine Kabala

- ESCOG rescheduled the Towns to Trails meetings and Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative (BIRPI) meeting for this week. There won't be virtual options because the goal is for people to annotate maps.
- The Towns to Trails plan is about linking existing infrastructure, not building new trails.
- The CEDS document for the region is available for comment.

Owens Lake News, Ann Logan

- The record runoff from this winter filled the brine pool. Owens Lake looks like a lake. Hurricane Hilary brought 1 to 15 inches of rain to locations throughout Inyo County.

National and Federal News

- The Great Salt Lake is drying up and triggering lawsuits like the ones surrounding Mono Lake.
- There's a real possibility for a federal government shutdown.
- Polls for the presidential election are neck-and-neck.

Sierra Business Council, Stacy Corless

- The High Road Transition Council met on Thursday for the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF). The subcommittees have been meeting, too. The work now is focused on developing a regional report for the state.
- The other project now is the CERF Catalyst Fund. SBC has to identify priority sectors for development.
- Sign up for the CERF list for details on the upcoming meetings.

State News

- The Governor is promoting a mental health bond for the ballot in March.
- There are two climate bonds that will be delayed until fall of 2024. The administration has assured that the bonds will move ahead next year.
- A \$2000 point-of-sale incentive is available for e-bike purchases.
- The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force will meet in October.
- There will be a 30x30 Partnership meeting in October.

Mammoth Donut, Janet Hatfield

- Whitebark delivered a draft EA to the Inyo NF for review.
- The MUP around Mammoth Creek is still closed. After the work is done, they hope to organize a public tour.
- There's significant beetle kill, despite the big winter.
- They continue tree removal work in Shady Rest. They will also remove trees in Camp High Sierra this fall.
- In general, they've removed more trees than expected initially because of the beetle kill.

ESSRP News

- John continues to follow up with tribes, agencies, and governments to sign the ESSRP MOU.

Partner Updates

Town of Mammoth Lakes, Lawson Reif

- There will be timber work in the Lakes Basin.
- Please join the Lakes Basin clean up stewardship event on September 23.

National Park Service

Manzanar NHS, Brenda Ling

- There was significant damage from Tropical Storm Hilary. Silt flooded through many parts of the park. They are still assessing damage and making decisions about safety for public access.

SEKI, Sintia Kawasaki-Yee

- There is a fire burning in the wilderness. They are planning to contain it to 1500 acres. It is beneficial fire for the sequoia groves. There could be smoke impacts on the east side.
- The team removed a trail bridge that they are hoping to replace in 2024.

Patrick Johnston

- Nichole Andler has agreed to shepherd the MOU review through the NPS regional office. This process could be delayed by the storm damage in Death Valley NP.

Mono County, Bob Gardner

- Lots of recreation events in Mono County.
- There will be events in Lee Vining and June Lake to discuss workforce housing.

Inyo County, Deston Dishion

- Inyo County has been focused on dealing with the flood.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Brian Hansen

- The Carson Ranger District issued a closure in Hope Valley for meadow restoration. They are repairing the dirt road adjacent to the meadow. It should go through at least October 15.
- Campgrounds are beginning to close for the season.
- Brian has to wait until the new FY to process the MOU through Grants & Agreements.
- H-T NF is partnered with a couple of entities in Markleeville for National Public Lands Day.
- They continue to try to fill the Bridgeport Ranger District recreation staff officer. They probably won't have a permanent person until the spring.

City of Bishop, Deston Dishion

- There will be new playground equipment next year in the city park to improve safety.
- They are working on public comment on the Whitney Alley Project.
- They are working on beautifying Main Street.

Alpine County

David Griffith

- September 22-24 will be the Washoe gathering at Grover Hot Springs SP. The event is open to the public.
- September 23 is Creek Day with Alpine Watershed. It's a cleanup day.
- Fuels reduction is affected by federal management and wilderness designation. The Tamarack Fire came out of the wilderness. The Wilderness Act restricts what can be done to restore forest health in the wilderness. Change would take an act of Congress.

- The Markleeville Farmers Market is this Saturday. It has great baked goods.
- Could we do the partner roundtable at the beginning of the meeting so more people can stay?

Alpine County, JT Chevallier

- Thank you to Congressman Kiley and his team.
- Tamarack Fire restoration continues through the end of the season. It will pick up next year.
- Alpine County is part of two CEDS. There will be public comment on the non-Eastern Sierra one soon.
- Bear Valley Ski Area was purchased. The new owners intend to do capital investment to link the ski area to the town.

Kutzadika'a Tribe, Angi Eddy

- There was an all-tribes meeting at the Mono Lake Tribal Office.
- Mono Lake benefitted from the rain.
- Sage Grouse restoration efforts are going well.

Congressman Kiley's Office, Chelyssa Horvat

- The Congressman had a great visit with many community leaders. Next time they hope to travel south of Bishop.
- Please don't hesitate to reach out by email or Zoom. They are there to support us with federal resources.

LADWP, Elsa Jimenez

- There were challenges, especially with the aqueduct in the Lone Pine area. The emergency is now over.
- Shepherd's Creek at Manzanar NHS flooded through an old rupture. Staff was able to re-establish the correct flow.

SCE, Matt Paruolo

- They are coordinating with recreation events at Intake #2 Reservoir for a drawdown.